

Appl. No. 10/087,201
Amdt. dated October 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6-7 and 11 were amended and new claims 19-20 were added to more distinctly claim the invention. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,847,704 to Hollister A. Hartman (Hartman). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 1, as amended, recites "the first graphical display portion comprises a first annular structure that appears to revolve about a fixed axis and displays the current speed indication on the first annular structure." Hartman fails to teach this limitation. In fact, Hartman suggests a single speedometer dial (64) with a single moving needle as the current speed indication. For at least the above reason, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-10, which are dependent upon claim 1, are allowable for at least being dependent upon allowable subject matter.

Claims 6-7 and 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of U.S. Patent 5,801,667 to Shimizu et al. (Shimizu). The Examiner stated that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the teaching of Shimizu in the system of Hartman for using an annular configuration and giving an appearance of rotation about fixed axis based upon the velocity information as the speed of the automobile changes." Applicants believe otherwise and ask the Examiner to provide support for the Examiner's assertion. On the contrary, Shimizu teaches a conventional speedometer (3). Shimizu discusses a speed alarm display for a vehicle which includes a rotational drum through a display window. The rotational drum does not directly indicate the current speed of the vehicle. Shimizu's rotational drum merely displays patterns, colors or the like, and is designed so that the driver can visually recognize variation of the pattern, color or the like. Neither Hartman nor Shimizu provides any motivation for a current speed indication as a structure that appears to revolve about a fixed axis for displaying the speed indication. For these reasons alone, claims 6 and 11 are allowable. In addition, claims 6-7, which depend upon claim 1, are allowable for

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being dependent upon allowable subject matter. Claims 12-18, which depend on claim 11, are allowable at least for the reasons claim 11 is allowable.

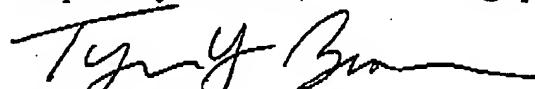
New claim 19 is patentable over Hartman and Shimizu. Hartman and Shimizu, individually and in combination, fail to teach, or provide any motivation for, a first current speed indication and second current speed indication as annular structures that each appears to revolve about a fixed axis. New claim 20, dependent on claim 19, is allowable for being dependent on allowable subject matter. Furthermore, with respect to claim 20, Hartman and Shimizu fail to teach that the second graphical display portion is external to the first graphical display portion. As stated above, Hartman simply suggests a single speedometer dial (64) with a single moving needle as the current speed indication.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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